

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-5 and add new claims 6-14 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the captioned application.

1. (currently amended) A thermal printer in which printing is performed while paper is sandwiched between a thermal head having a heating element and a platen roller, comprising:

a first frame that movably holds ~~the~~ a head support body on which is mounted the thermal head;

biasing means ~~member that is formed~~ disposed between the head support body and the first frame ~~and generates for~~ applying a pressing force between the thermal head and the platen roller; and

a second frame that holds the first frame and the platen ~~roller,~~ roller;

wherein the thermal head, the head support body, and the biasing means are detachably attachable to the second frame in the state of being assembled with the first frame.

2. (currently amended) A thermal printer according to claim ~~1,~~ 1; wherein the second frame ~~is provided with~~ has a receiving groove for holding a rotating shaft of the platen roller; and the first frame has a hook portion ~~that is~~ hooked round a component held in the receiving groove, and also

serves as lock member that locks the platen roller to prevent it from being released from the receiving groove.

3. (currently amended) A thermal printer according to ~~claims 1,~~ claim 1; wherein attachment and detachment of the first frame and second frame are made possible through opening and closing of a fixture that enables fixation and release with one operation or through attachment and detachment of a screw.

4. (currently amended) A thermal printer according to claim 1, ~~wherein:~~ 1; wherein

bearing holes through which a shaft is passed are provided in both side walls of each of the head support body and the first frame;

the second frame is provided with a bearing hole, through which the support shaft is passed, in one of side walls wall thereof, and a bearing groove that bears the support shaft in the other side wall thereof;

the support shaft is passed through the bearing holes of the first frame and second frame and the bearing holes of the head support body and is borne in the bearing groove of the second frame, whereby the head support body is held by the first frame in a rotatable state about the support shaft, and also, the first frame is held by the second frame in a rotatable state about the support shaft;

the support shaft is fastened with a fitting that retains the support shaft to prevent it from falling out from the head support body and the first frame in a state in which ~~a movable range, in which~~ the support shaft can be slid in an axial direction within a limited movable range ~~is left;~~

the thermal printer is provided with fixing means which is brought into contact with the support shaft in a state in which the support shaft is passed through the bearing hole of the second frame to limit ~~slide~~ sliding of the support shaft in the movable range and which retains the support shaft to prevent it from coming off from the bearing groove of the second frame; and

the retainment of the fixing means is released to ~~make~~ permit the support shaft ~~slid~~ to slide in the movable range, whereby the support shaft is made to all out from the bearing hole of the second frame while the support shaft is passed through the first frame and the head support body to make the first frame removable from the second frame.

5. (currently amended) A thermal printer according to claim ~~4,~~ 4; wherein the fixing means is comprised of a fixture that enables retainment and release of the support shaft through one operation or attachment and detachment of a screw.

6. (new) A thermal printer comprising: an outer frame; a platen roller rotatably supported by the outer frame; and an inner frame detachably attachable to the outer frame and having assembled thereon a head support body, a thermal head supported by the head support body, and one or more biasing members for urging the head support body toward the platen roller to apply a pressing force between the thermal head and the platen roller; wherein the inner frame together with the head support body, the thermal head and the one or more biasing members are detachable as an assembled unit from the outer frame.

7. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 6; wherein the one or more biasing members are disposed between a wall of the inner frame and the head support body.

8. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 6; wherein the inner frame is disposed within the outer frame with opposite side walls of the inner frame facing respective opposite side walls of the outer frame, the opposite side walls of the inner and outer frames having holes through which slidably extends a shaft that detachably attaches the inner frame to the outer frame.

9. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 8; further including means for releasably restraining axial sliding movement of the shaft to prevent the shaft from being withdrawn from the holes in the outer frame.

10. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 8; further including a fixture releasably connected to the outer frame to prevent withdrawal of the shaft from the holes in the outer frame, the fixture being releasable from the outer frame to permit withdrawal of the shaft from one of the holes in the outer frame.

11. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 6; wherein the outer frame has two spaced-apart receiving grooves for rotatably supporting the platen roller; and the inner frame has two hook portions that cooperate with respective receiving grooves to retain the platen roller on the outer frame.

12. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 11; wherein the inner frame is disposed within the outer frame with opposite side walls of the inner frame facing respective opposite side walls of the outer frame, the opposite side walls of the inner and outer frames having holes through which slidably extends a shaft that detachably attaches the inner frame to the outer frame.

13. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 12; further including means for releasably restraining axial sliding movement of the shaft to prevent the shaft from being withdrawn from the holes in the outer frame.

14. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 12; further including a fixture releasably connected to the outer frame to prevent withdrawal of the shaft from the holes in the outer frame, the fixture being releasable from the outer frame to permit withdrawal of the shaft from one of the holes in the outer frame.